

Host Nation COVID-19 News Stories for April 14

- Germany: has 130,072 confirmed cases and is reporting 3,194 deaths. Baden-Württemberg has 24,898 confirmed cases and is reporting 702 deaths. (Source: Worldometer Collecting Corona Statistics)

Government advisors recommend reopening schools and the use of protective masks

According to government advisors, schools should reopen quickly.

Berlin - The advisors of the Federal Government in the fight against the corona pandemic recommend the students to quickly return to school. In addition, in their statement published on Monday, the Leopoldina scientists advocate the use of respiratory masks and an improved overview of the spread of the disease. "The reopening of educational institutions should take place as soon as possible, step by step and differentiated by grade," they write in their expert report. The expert report is one of the bases for consultations between the Federal Government and the Länder on Wednesday on easing restrictions on contacts. (*Stuttgarter Nachrichten, April 13, 2020*)

Strobl announces cautious exit from lockdown

After Easter it was now time to get back to living and working carefully and according to plan. "You can't paralyze a country forever. The people would not be able to cope with that, and neither would our economy," said Strobl. Strobl therefore does not see parties, celebrations and meetings with hundreds or even thousands of people in the foreseeable future. "What we certainly need further, especially in Baden-Württemberg on the border with Alsace, are strict controls at the borders, including refoulement".

Strobl is in favor of a detailed concept of how to protect the particularly affected groups of people. "One thing is particularly important for this: sufficient protective equipment and above all coordinated and large-scale testing. Loosening up means above all: testing, testing, testing." There is still room for improvement here - the capacities are greater than the tests actually carried out. And digital technology also offers new possibilities. To know infection chains by voluntary app would be a step towards more freedom, explained Strobl.

Coronavirus ten times more deadly than the swine flu

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the corona virus is ten times more deadly than the H1N1 virus known as "swine flu", which led to a pandemic in 2009. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that more and more data is now available from various countries, giving a clearer picture of the effects of the virus. The restrictions imposed on the corona virus should therefore only be relaxed "slowly". According to the WHO director, the novel virus can only be stopped completely if a "safe and efficient vaccine" is developed.

According to the WHO, 18,500 people died from H1N1 worldwide. However, the respected trade magazine "The Lancet" estimated the number of deaths at between 151,700 and 575,400. (*News channel ard April 13, 2020*)

That's why the coronavirus is nowhere near finished

The risk of infection from the coronavirus for the population remains high. According to the RKI, there are four essential factors for this evaluation. The measures against the corona epidemic have drastic impacts on our life in Germany. Many people wonder when this will end. For Lothar Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), this is not yet predictable. The number of new infections is still rising. The danger for the population remains high. In order to determine changes in the situation, the Institute essentially uses four criteria:

- How many people can one infected person contaminate? Reproduction Count
- How many infections are there among 100,000 inhabitants? Incidence rate
- How fast are the confirmed case numbers increasing? New infections
- How many infected people require an intensive care bed? Hospital capacity

(*News channel regional news SWR April 14, 2020*)

Good chances for Corona treatment in 2020

Currently, clinical studies are running several parallel trials in order to obtain approval for urgently needed Covid-19 treatments as quickly as possible. According to the President of the Federal Institute for Drugs, the chances are good that this could happen this year.

The President of the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM), Karl Broich, has confirmed the assessment of experts that Covid-19 drugs could be approved before the end of this year. "I assume that by late summer we will receive the first reliable results from the studies currently underway," Broich told the "General-Anzeiger" newspaper. "If the data provides good results, I am very confident that we will be able to grant approval before the end of this year." Possible corona agents show good results. He also emphasized that there is still no sufficient proof of efficiency for any drug. (**News channel ntv April 11, 2020**)

Radiologists want to investigate long-term effects of Covid-19

Stuttgart (dpa/lsw) - With hundreds of lung images of Covid-19 patients, radiologists from Stuttgart hope to develop better treatment methods for infected patients and assess the course of the disease. According to the Stuttgart Hospital, the image database might also be helpful in finding out more about the long-term consequences of the virus. So far, no data is available on the first Chinese patients, said Professor Götz Martin Richter, Medical Director of the Centre for Radiology at the Stuttgart Hospital.

Richter has applied for a study based on the computer tomography images of at least 250 patients of all age groups. Currently, data are available from patients aged between 21 and 89 years. **"The virus does not care about age," the physician emphasized. Unfortunately,**

especially younger people continue to underestimate this virus. (*News channel ntv regional news Baden Württemberg April 14, 2020*)

Decline in sales due to Corona -The brewers in the country are hit hard

Celebrations have been cancelled, pubs have closed - in the Corona crisis 210 breweries in the country are fighting for their existence. But the operators are trying to continue the business with fighting spirit and creativity.

Stuttgart - The words are clear, which the Brewers' Association of Baden-Wuerttemberg has addressed to the state government: "The currently prevailing corona pandemic has dramatic and existence-threatening consequences for the 210 breweries in the state," says the president of the Brewers' Association, Matthias Schuerer. There is no doubt that the situation is dramatic.

Some medium-sized breweries in the Stuttgart region have had to accept sales losses of up to 70 percent. A typical representative of a family business is, for example, the lamb brewery in Gruibingen (Goeppingen District). The brewery's turnover has been reduced by 50 percent, but the approximately 20 employees are not just sitting around, because the boss, Hans-Dieter Hilsenbeck, has realized an ingenious idea: He has the fermented young beer distilled to ethanol by a distiller from Weilheim-Hepsisau, (Esslingen district) and sells the raw material in 15 to 20-liter canisters to pharmacies around Gruibingen. The pharmacists mix in some glycerine for hand disinfection and can thus keep their businesses germ-free. Profits are not lost "but we can keep production going a little bit," said Hilsenbeck. And the raw material is in great demand: "We were even approached by a nursing home in Kiel to see if we could supply it. However, Hans-Dieter Hilsenbeck finds it astonishing that everyone hoards noodles and toilet paper, "but nobody hoards beer".

Actually, the main business is in spring and summer

The Kaiser brewery in Geislingen/Steige (district of Göppingen) has about 40 employees. The sales department has been reduced to zero, and the head of sales, Ulrich Kumpf, is working 100 percent short time. Because the celebrations have broken off and the brewery is unable to supply the catering trade, the company has lost about 40 percent of its sales. Although the company has quickly gotten rid of personnel costs, the fixed costs remain. Normally the main business for the breweries would start during this period, the spring and summer months are the months with the highest turnover. All parties and meetings, which would have brought together more than 200 people, are cancelled. (*Stuttgarter Nachrichten, April 13, 2020*)

Stuttgart police register around 100 offences

The Stuttgart police registered 100 violations in the city area over the Easter weekend, and almost 2,000 people were checked (as of Monday, 13:00). Because of the good weather, the destinations in the state capital were well visited, most of the people kept to the regulations and distance rules. About 100 officials were on the road every day.

In the districts of Esslingen, Reutlingen, Tübingen and Zollernalbkreis, the police were also present at well-known excursion destinations, barbecue sites, parks and green areas. Biker routes and meeting points as well as youth clubs were also included in the controls. Restaurants and prostitution businesses were also checked. From Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday there were about 250 violations.